



Merry Christmas from Bark Busters

How to have a Safe, Happy Christmas with your Family Pet

FOODS TO AVOID

ONIONS– Members of the onion family (leeks, onions etc) can cause liver damage as well as a rare form of anaemia in dogs. The risk is posed by both the raw and cooked forms, as well as by onion powders.

SALT – Unlike ours, a dog's body cannot process excess salt. Especially in an older dog, too much salt can cause kidney damage. Foods like chips, canned soup broth, sauces, and gravies, and even cheese contain high amounts of salt and are unhealthy for dogs of any age.

CHOCOLATE POISONING – Dogs have a tendency to like sweets just like humans, however, chocolates can be a lethal temptation for them. Symptoms of chocolate poisoning include hyper-excitability, vomiting, frequent urination, diarrhoea, rapid breathing, weakness, and seizures – seek vet advice ASAP. To prevent accidental ingestion, store chocolate securely out of the way, and always use natural dog products such as tasty liver treats.



COOKED BONES – Only ever feed raw bones (brisket, lamb flaps, chicken necks /wings) – **never** be tempted to give Fido the cooked bones as it can cause severe damage internally where they splinter.

COMMON DOG POISONS

IBUPROFEN (Advil, Nurofen) – This common over the counter painkiller is extremely toxic to dogs. As little as one tablet can cause gastric ulceration, liver damage, kidney failure and death. It is the most common cause of poisoning in the pet.

PARACETAMOL – Another common painkiller, this drug produces toxic by-products as it is used by the body. Dogs cannot break these toxins down so they quickly become poisoned by them. Tragically both of the above drugs are often given by owners seeking to relieve a pet's discomfort without realising the potential consequences – there is absolutely no indication for the use of these drugs in pets).

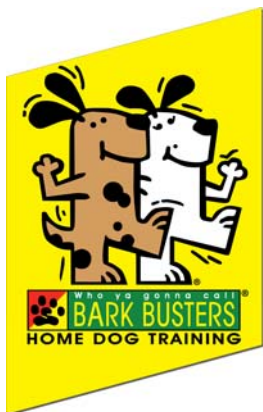


METALDEHYDE (Snail Bait) – Dogs seem to find these small blue coloured snail pellets tasty. If they ingest enough of this poison they become over-excited, begin to have fits and eventually fall into a coma and die. Whenever you treat your garden with snail bait, ensure that you fence off the treated areas to prevent the pet getting access to the poison.

WARFARIN (Rat Poison) – Pets either eat the poison directly or they find and eat a rodent, which was killed by warfarin. Ingestion of this poison will prevent an animal's blood from clotting and they can bleed to death.

CANNABIS – This drug is quite commonly ingested by pets. Although the relative quantities ingested can be quite high (no pun intended) the drug rarely causes serious side effects but can cause over-excitement, drooling and increased sweating. Occasionally an affected pet will seem unaware of its surroundings and it has been reported that these pets often have an increased appetite.

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HOLIDAYING WITH YOUR DOG

If you are on holidays, make sure you have a copy of your vet's number accessible, or if away, a vet in that area.

- **FLEAS AND TICKS** – Ensure your dog is on a vet approved program for both, and search daily for ticks if holidaying in an effected area.
- **FRACTURES** – Signs and symptoms include pain, protruding bone, swelling, limp limb and shock – seek vet care ASAP.
- **WOUNDS AND BLEEDING** – Signs and symptoms include pain, abrasions and blood loss. Remove objects gently, clean the wound liberally with clean water. Avoid using hydrogen peroxide as it can cause tissue damage. Seek Vet care ASAP.
- **FLY BITES** – Affects the ears and nose tip. Apply canine friendly repellent, discourage scratching, and use an antiseptic if the wound appears to be open.



NOTE: This information is only a guide for aiding an injured dog. It is not intended to replace veterinary care, but to give FIRST AID until you can get professional help.

Please call us anytime if you require assistance.



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Information Sourced from the "Dog Owner's Home Veterinary Handbook" -- 3rd Edition by James M. Giffin MD & Lisa D. Carlson, DVM. You must seek professional advice from a vet in any medical emergency.